



Definition: Neuropsychological evaluation is a fixed or flexible series of tests geared to extrapolate information about an individual's ability to function in several areas such as attention, executive functioning, learning and memory, language and communication, sensory and perceptual skills, motor skills and social and emotional functioning. Evaluations may be considered comprehensive or partial, depending upon the information needed to answer specific referral questions and the individual's unique career planning needs.

Purpose: To make or confirm a diagnosis, find problems with brain function, track changes in brain function over time, determine individual cognitive skill strengths and weaknesses, and guide treatment, rehabilitation, vocational and accommodation decisions.

Qualified Neuropsychologist: A qualified neuropsychologist has a doctoral degree in Psychology (from an accredited university or college), is licensed as a psychologist, has participated in pre- and post-doctoral training (a minimum of 1 year, 2 years is preferable) and has received specialized training and experience in the assessment/treatment of neurological disorders.

Neurological Disorders: Neuropsychological evaluation may be appropriate for individuals with the following disabilities (this list is not all-inclusive):

- Acquired brain injury (ABI); non-traumatic or traumatic (TBI)
- Congenital or developmental disorders
- Cerebrovascular disorder (stroke)
- Infectious disorders (Meningitis, Encephalitis, HIV/AIDS, etc.)
- Neoplasms of the central nervous system
- Metabolic disorders (anoxia)
- Neurotoxic disorders (lead poisoning)
- Multiple Sclerosis and other demyelinating disorders

Indications: A comprehensive or partial neuropsychological evaluation may be warranted under one or more of the following conditions. This list is not all-inclusive, but rather a guide for VR staff in determining a course of action with the applicant or client.

- The brain injury or neurological disorder appears to be the primary cause of, or a major contributor to, difficulty obtaining or maintaining employment.
- Existing medical records and/or personal history describe an incident or series of incidents that may have resulted in brain injury or neurological disorder (diagnosed or undiagnosed).
- The individual is open to learning more about the impact of their brain injury or other neurological disorder on their functioning for purposes of vocational planning and employment.
- A completed Nebraska VR ABI Interview reveals significant challenges resulting from potential brain injury that present barriers to vocational planning and employment.
- Perceptual Memory Task (PMT), or VCWS 6 Independent Problem Solving, or other vocational assessment scores reveal significant deficits in memory and/or executive function.
- No neuropsychological evaluation has been done in the past, in spite of an injury or diagnosis of other neurological disorder.

- Previous neuropsychological evaluations are not current (more than 3 to 5 years old) or are not vocationally relevant.
- The individual presents with brain injury and complicating co-occurring diagnoses, such as mental/behavioral health issues or chemical dependency.
- The individual exhibits dysfunctional behaviors or extreme fatigue that may impede vocational assessment and planning efforts.
- The individual is considering formal vocational or academic training to achieve a vocational goal.
- The individual will need documentation of the brain injury or other neurological disorder and appropriate accommodations for academic or vocational training, or for requesting reasonable worksite accommodations.
- The individual will need testing accommodations for required licensing or credentialing examinations associated with their vocational goal.
- For consultation on these or other potential indications, contact Keri Bennett, Program Director for ABI, (308) 224-7571 or keri.bennett@nebraska.gov

Procurement and Authorization Process:

- Obtain a signed release to send all previous medical and vocational records that may be re-released to the neuropsychologist including the completed Nebraska VR ABI Interview, Perceptual Memory Task, VCSW 6 Independent Problem Solving, and/or other vocational assessment results.
- Provide a letter with specific referral questions to be addressed in the report.
- Authorize for testing services according to the Nebraska Medicaid Fee Schedule Allowables for all established rates [471 NAC], including pre- and post-test consultation services in the authorization.
- Provide a copy of the VR Psychological Narrative Report Guidelines with the authorization for the neuropsychologist to use in writing their report.

Service Provider Reporting Requirements:

- Identifying information and reason for referral
- Background information/history
- Tests administered
- Behavioral observations
- Test results and interpretation
- Summary and conclusions
- Diagnostic impressions
- Recommendations